Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

5. (Currently Amended): A method for automatically processing printer errors occurring during printing of a print job in a virtual printer system wherein a virtual printer is configurable with a plurality of physical print engines, comprising the steps of:

      segmenting a print job into a defined job stack for each of the plurality of

5   print engines of the virtual printing system that will print a defined portion of the print job;

      detecting occurrence of an error condition during printing of at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job in one of the print engines in the virtual printer system; and

10   re-routing the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job not processed by the one print engine <u>in the virtual printer system</u> to a second print engine in the virtual printer system.

6. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of detecting comprises the steps of:

      reading an error status signal generated by [[a]] <u>one of the</u> print engine<u>s in the virtual printer system</u>;

5   interrupting the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job in which the error status signal was generated; and

      releasing <u>one of</u> the print engine<u>s</u> from the virtual printer system in which the error condition occurred.

7. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of re-routing comprises the steps of:

defining the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

attaching a separator page to the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of defining comprises the step of:

defining the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job as the unprinted part of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job including the page of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job whereupon the error occurred.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of attaching comprises the steps of:

creating a separator page associated with the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

attaching the separator page to the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of creating a separator page comprises the step of:

designating an additional page to be inserted in the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job following the last page that resulted in generation of an end-of-page signal.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of re-routing comprises the steps of:

reconfiguring the virtual printer system if a next print engine in the virtual printer system is not available;

5   printing the re-routed remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

assembling the pages of the print job printed after re-routing with the pages of the print job printed before re-routing.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for automatically processing printer errors occurring during printing of a print job in a virtual printer system wherein a virtual printer is configurable with a plurality of physical print engines, comprising:

a job stacking device for segmenting a print job into a defined job stack for each

5   of the plurality of print engines of the virtual printing system that will print a defined portion of the print job;

a detector for detecting occurrence of an error condition during printing of at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job in one of the print engines in the virtual printer system; and

10   a router for re-routing the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job not processed by the one print engine <u>in the virtual printer system</u> to a second print engine in the virtual printer system.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said detector comprises:

a reading device for reading an error status signal generated by [[a]] <u>one of the</u> print engine<u>s</u> <u>in the virtual printer system</u>;

5   an interrupt device for interrupting said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job in which said error status signal was generated; and

a device for releasing said <u>one of the</u> print engine<u>s</u> from said virtual printer system in which said error condition occurred.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said router comprises:

a remainder determination device for defining said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job; and

5   an attaching device for attaching a separator page to said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job.

Claim15 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said remainder determination device is operable:

to define said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job as the unprinted part of said at least a portion of said associated

5   defined portion of the print job including the page of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job whereupon said error occurred.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said attaching device comprises:

a separator device for creating a separator page associated with said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job prior

5   to said attaching device attaching said separator page to said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said attaching device comprises:

means for designating an additional page to be inserted in said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job following the last page that resulted in generation of an end-of-page signal.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said router comprises:

a configuring device for reconfiguring said virtual printer system if a next print engine in said virtual printer system is not available;

5   a printer for printing said re-routed remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

a collator for assembling said pages of said print job printed after re-routing with said pages of said print job printed before re-routing.